

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 2-15 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-14. In response, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The scope of claim 12 has not been changed by these amendments. Accordingly, indication of allowance of claims 12-14 is respectfully requested.

The objection to claim 15 is noted. In response, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form. The scope of claim 15 has not been changed by this amendment, nor has this amendment been made to define over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The objection to claims 2-14 are noted. In response, each of dependent claims 2-11 and 13-14 have been amended to change the phrase "A sector antenna apparatus" to "The sector antenna apparatus" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP1003241 to Rao et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claims 1 and 15 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record is a sector antenna apparatus which includes "an antenna changeover switch for switching between the plurality of horn antennas."

The Office Action contends that the switch 47 of Rao et al. is an antenna changeover switch for switching between the plurality of horn antennas. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that this is not a proper interpretation of the switch 47 of Rao et al.

As described at column 4, lines 24-36 and shown in Fig. 3 of Rao et al., a feed network 36 is coupled to each of the feed horns 42. Each feed horn 42 includes a filter 46 which is used to reject transmitted or received frequencies. Since each feed horn 42 has its own filter 46, the switches 47 in the feed network 36 can not be used to switch between different feed horns. Rather, the switches 47 are used to provide two different polarizations LCP and RCP (left-hand circular and right-hand circular) to the polarizer 48 in the feed network 36.

In addition, since each feed horn 42 has its own filter 46 which filters out transmitted or received frequencies, there is no need for an antenna changeover switch in the device of Rao et al.

In fact, inasmuch as Rao et al. teaches that each feed horn has its own feed network, it teaches away from the use of an antenna changeover switch. Therefore, Rao et al. does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 15 patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims include additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 2-11 are likewise patentable.

Application No.: 10/693,453

Docket No.: M1071.1863

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 2-15, and allowance of the present application with claims 1-15 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Dated: March 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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